

CLASSIFICATION

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

INFORMATION REPORT **CONFIDENTIAL**

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)
SUBJECT SIA Railway Orders and Rerouting of Lines
PLACE ACQUIRED [REDACTED] 25X1C

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

SS.2 4M/C 1. No technical difficulties exist preventing the full-scale use of the Berlin-Helmstedt rail line. Produce is presently being hauled over all the sections of the line. A part of the remaining double-track stretch between Magdeburg and Helmstedt is being reduced to single track on orders of the SIA.

SS.6 4M/C
SS.8 4M/C

2. There is no evidence of actual tampering with the switches but there is fully confirmed proof that all Berlin bound freights are routed around the western sectors to enter the city only over a rail crossing from the US Zone direct to the Soviet Sector of Berlin. The operation requires wide rerouting of trains from the south and the west as the Berlin Ring lies south of the city boundaries. Trains from the south to Litten run via Falkenburg. A cut off is projected on the line 12 kilometers north of Zossen to circumvent the tip of the American Sector and permit entry via Schöneeweide. Trains from the southwest could then traverse a considerably shorter route via Wittenberg, Jüterbog. The rerouting of freight trains has been admittedly out of fear of Western confiscation of goods in the trains as they pass through the western sectors. **Comment:** Construction of the line is a possible indication that the Soviets expect the West to hold out over a long period or count on long range four power occupation of Berlin.)

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The German Administration of Soviet Zone Railways admits that no Magdeburg rail bridge has been out of service recently.

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[REDACTED] confirms the press reports which stated that the canal lock at Gathenow is not under repair. Barges passed through as late as 15 July 1948. The same report also states that freight to Berlin has been routed via Mahlow and Gröna since 13 July. Only empty trains are using the Harnsee line.

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NO CHANGE in Class. ☐
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